Updated Met Office training course for water industry announced

17 June 2014 - The Met Office announces it has updated its water industry training courses. With the current pressure on security of supply, and the likelihood of climate change increasing extremes of weather, knowing how to confidently interpret weather and climate information will be even more crucial to water industry personnel.

Covering a range of topics, including hazardous weather, forecast interpretation and climate change, the course is suitable for water companies' operations staff. Course participants will develop the skills needed to accurately analyse and interpret weather information and its impacts on water company resources, maintenance and operations.

Wessex Water recently made use of this with bespoke training sessions. The utility company wanted to improve its understanding of weather forecasts to help make operating decisions to improve business efficiency and decision making.

Spending time learning about the weather enabled Wessex Water to develop its understanding of the varied range of potential impacts of the weather beyond the more obvious. For example, through training sessions, Wessex Water developed a detailed understanding of the impact of heavy wind on road signage and the impact of heavy rainfall on certain water treatment works.

Michaela Wilson, Management Systems Manager at Wessex Water, says, "Having this knowledge within our business has been very useful. Our increased understanding of the trigger levels within different weather patterns means that our control room can initiate mitigating action and be better prepared. For example, an awareness of the location of lightning strikes has already been used to inform decisions and helped us to reduce the need to call on staff out of hours."

Courses are run by the Met Office upon request, to fit in with clients' training schedules. Visit our Training for the Water Industry pages for more information and to register your interest.

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